

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 are presently pending in this case. Claims 1, 3-5, 8, and 9 are amended by the present amendment. As amended Claims 1, 3-5, 8, and 9 are supported by the original disclosure,¹ no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Official Action, the specification was objected to; Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Dworkin (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20020071540) in view of Dailey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,363,352, hereinafter "Dailey").

With regard to the objection to the specification, Claims 4, 5, 8, and 9 are amended to recite a "computer readable storage medium" as suggested in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, the objection to the specification is believed to be overcome.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 1 and 3-5 as unpatentable over Dworkin in view of Dailey, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

The claimed invention relates to an apparatus and method for providing a chat space in conjunction with the distribution of contents, such as real-time audio and video. The claimed invention can be used to promote the sales of goods or services by providing a demonstration of the good or service and allowing potential customers to give feedback regarding the demonstration. In this regard, the claimed invention allows a user to reserve a conference with multiple attendees that will provide distribution of contents and a chat space. The user can then invite the multiple attendees using an e-mailed distribution notice.

One problem noted by the present inventors is that unsolicited e-mails are often ignored, especially if the recipient does not know what the e-mail is offering. Thus, the

¹See, e.g., the specification at page 18, line 2 to page 22, line 19 and Figures 13 and 15.

claimed invention allows the user to include their e-mail address and webpage in the invitation to the attendees so that the attendees can learn more about the good or service being offered, and even e-mail the user questions about the good or service or the demonstration. Therefore, the attendees are more likely to take part in the demonstration.

In one embodiment, after the chat is over, a record of the chat is sent to the user who set up the conference. This allows a user that is demonstrating a good or service to have a record of feedback from the potential customers. This allows the user to change the demonstration the future to increase the chance of selling the good or service to future attendees.

Thus, amended Claim 1 recites in part:

an acquiring unit configured to acquire reservation information, sent by the first terminal to the information processing server, from a reservation data base in order to provide the first service to the plurality of second terminals, the plurality of second terminals receiving a distribution notice in accordance with a corresponding second terminal address of the reservation from the information processing server, ***the distribution notice including authentication data, an electronic mail address of a user of the first terminal, and an Internet webpage address of the user of the first terminal.***

Dworkin describes an application service provider for a conferencing environment.² The outstanding Office Action cited paragraph 27 of Dworkin as describing the plurality of second terminals receiving a distribution notice.³ However, it is respectfully submitted that paragraph 27 of Dworkin does not describe the transmission of any distribution notice including ***authentication data, an electronic mail address of a user of the first terminal, and an Internet webpage address of the user of the first terminal.*** This is because Dworkin describes a conferencing environment for business conferences between expected attendees. Thus, Dworkin is not concerned about the invited attendees failing to attend a conference. In

²See Dworkin, abstract.

³See the outstanding Office Action at page 4, lines 2-3.

fact, paragraph 27 of Dworkin describes that the ASP *automatically* connects the designated conference participants to schedule conferences at the start time. Thus, not only does Dworkin fail to teach or suggest “the plurality of second terminals receiving a distribution notice in accordance with a corresponding second terminal address of the reservation from the information processing server, *the distribution notice including authentication data, an electronic mail address of a user of the first terminal, and an Internet webpage address of the user of the first terminal*,” there would be no suggestion or motivation to modify Dworkin to include such a feature. Further, it is respectfully submitted that Dailey also fails to teach or suggest this feature. Consequently, Claim 1 (and Claims 2 and 6 dependent therefrom) is patentable over Dworkin in view of Dailey.

Claims 3-5 recite in part:

acquiring reservation information, sent by the first terminal to the information processing server, from a reservation data base in order to provide the first service to the plurality of second terminals, the plurality of second terminals receiving a distribution notice in accordance with a corresponding second terminal address of the reservation from the information processing server, *the distribution notice including authentication data, an electronic mail address of a user of the first terminal, and an Internet webpage address of the user of the first terminal*.

As noted above, not only do Dworkin and Dailey fail to teach or suggest the use of a distribution notice as recited in Claims 3-5, there is no suggestion or motivation to modify Dworkin to include such a feature. Consequently, Claims 3-5 (and Claims 7-9 dependent therefrom) are also patentable over Dworkin in view of Dailey.

Finally, Claims 6-9 recite subject matter that further defines over Dworkin and Dailey. In fact, the outstanding Office Action concedes that Dworkin and Dailey do not teach or suggest the features recited in Claims 6-9.⁴ Accordingly, a *prima facie* case

⁴See the outstanding Office Action at page 5, lines 12-15.

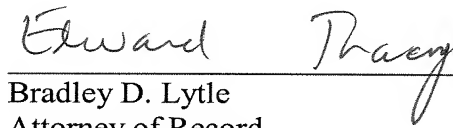
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obviousness of Claims 6-9 has not been presented, as the cited references do not teach or suggest each and every element of the rejected claims. See MPEP §2143.

Accordingly, the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance.
An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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